

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF MICHAEL COOK

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MR. COOK: Hi. My name is Michael Cook, and I, too, am a fifth generation Nevadan.

First I would like to express my joy at seeing so many wonderful, dynamic, social warriors here tonight. And remind everybody it's less than a week after the 150th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's essay on Civil Disobedience.

It is my belief that we are here tonight to support a more than worthy cause and one which he would have been very proud of us all.

1 [In light of the DOE's arguments and the information presented here tonight, I see that in fact there is a need, but I do not approve of the cause, nor can I in good conscience stand by and allow you to poison the earth or the great State of Nevada, which are both very dear to me.]

[To consider a hundred years is grossly irresponsible. 10,000 years is absolutely unfathomable. The truth is that most probably human beings will not even be speaking the same language 10,000 years from now, and that is assuming we are not forced into extinction at the hands of bureaucrats very similar to the Department of Energy.

To assume that the United States of America will be able to continue and remain a nation for that length of time is not only showing contempt for history, but it's beyond arrogance.]

3 [The most unsettling act of arrogance I think I have ever experienced is that the DOE expects us, a group of predominantly educated people and citizens, to buy this as truth and the gospel. They expect us to believe it is safe.

What you are talking about is nuclear power, the most dangerous issue ever presented to our species. To assume that it is or ever could be safe is absolutely ludicrous.

4 The facts are that the Department of Energy is attempting to convince us that it is okay to poison our children.] [There must be alternatives. And as a citizen, I demand that we find them.]

1 continued

[Yucca Mountain is not an option. Nevada is a paradise,

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not a wasteland. But beyond that, it is my home.

And anyone is foolish to think that I will not defend it by any means necessary. If you don't use it, you don't make it, and if you don't make it, you don't need to store it. It is really very simple. Thank you.